DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

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About
The Masters in Communication provides for aspiring students in communication studies, professionals wishing to advance their careers, and educators seeking to teach dual-credit courses. It is also an attractive option for graduate students in Psychology, Education, Sociology, and Criminal Justice who are searching for a complementary minor. For those who aspire to a PhD in one of these fields, an MA emphasizing interpersonal communication could be a useful stepping stone. Students in the MA program may apply for the Certificate in Communication Studies after successfully completing 18 credit hours and the required courses.

Mission
The mission of the Department of Communication Studies is to provide students with understanding and competency related to human communication as it occurs in a variety of settings and contexts. In the process, faculty are devoted to developing their expertise to the highest level possible and to developing the potential of students to obtain the knowledge and skills they need to live fulfilled and productive lives.

Highlights
• Graduate assistantships are available on a competitive basis.
• Graduates have gone on to Ph.D. programs at elite universities.
• Faculty provide collaboration opportunities for publication.
• Travel support available for graduate students for professional conference attendance/presentations.
• Master of Arts in Communication Studies (catalog.shsu.edu/graduate-and-professional/college-departments/humanities-social-sciences/communication-studies/communication-studies-ma/)
• Graduate Certificate in Communication Studies (catalog.shsu.edu/graduate-and-professional/college-departments/humanities-social-sciences/communication-studies/certificate/)

COMS 5331. Comm Studies Methods & Resrch. 3 Hours.
Students examine graduate level research methods, including quantitative and qualitative approaches. Topics may include data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Students develop individual research proposals.

COMS 5332. Statistical Methods For Comm. 3 Hours.
Students focus on various statistical techniques used in communication research. Topics may include univariate and bivariate techniques, hypothesis testing for single and multiple samples, as well as methods used to investigate relationships between two or more variables such as ANOVA, ANCOVA, and multiple regression analysis. Lectures, assigned readings, and projects are used to describe and illustrate advanced literature on the logic, interpretation, and assumptions of each statistical model. Students participate in research activities using statistical techniques.

COMS 5333. Qualitative Comm Research. 3 Hours.
Students in this course examine qualitative communication research methods and designs. The focus of this course is on the identification and creation of communication research problems, the development of designs, data collection, and analysis procedures to address those problems. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

COMS 5335. Advanced Communication Theory. 3 Hours.
Students survey and evaluate communication theory from varied empirical and critical perspectives. Students scrutinize the process of theory building in order to evaluate existing theories.

COMS 5350. Computer Mediated Comm. 3 Hours.
Students examine how computers mediate communication in various contexts, such as interpersonal relationships, privacy, cyberbullying, social support, and family dynamics. Students study and conduct empirical research on the topic. Prerequisite: None.

COMS 5360. Adv Interpersonal Communicatin. 3 Hours.
Students explore methodological and theoretical issues in relational communication with special attention to building ongoing research projects in support of theory.
COMS 5361. Dark Side of Communication. 3 Hours.
Students explore some of the darker aspects of communication, such as how negative behaviors can impact both the perpetrator and the victim of such behaviors. Topics may include bullying, criticism, complaints, verbal aggression, and revenge.

COMS 5362. Advanced Intercultural Comm. 3 Hours.
Students explore current theories and research in the area of intercultural communication, mainly from an interpersonal perspective. Topics may include self-disclosure, interpersonal trust, mate selection, love, interracial relationships, and arranged marriage.

COMS 5363. Interpersonal Conflict. 3 Hours.
Students examine the complexities of conflict in order to help understand the forces that make conflict challenging and in order to develop a repertoire of skills for thinking about and managing conflict more effectively in a variety of close relationship contexts.
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

COMS 5364. Contemporary Family Comm. 3 Hours.
Students engage in historical, theoretical, and social research related to families. Students learn how families in the United States are adapting to the current social, economic, and political environments. Students use a comparative approach to family communication, emphasizing diversity, focusing on how social inequity shapes family experiences, and understanding how personal family experiences fit into the larger social, cultural, and historical context.
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

COMS 5365. Seminar in Communication. 3 Hours.
Students study advanced topics in communication theory and research. Topics rotate from semester to semester. Students may repeat for credit when topics change.
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.
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